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## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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SUBJECT	NGO School Battalion, 9th Independent Tank Regiment	DATE DISTR.	10 June 1955 25X1
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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

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SUBJECT NCO School Bn, 9th Ind Tk Regt

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the NCO school battalion student strength approximately 845 enlisted personnel.<sup>3</sup> For training purposes, the battalion was composed of seven companies, with each company having four platoons. Approximately six officers and 120 EM (privates) were assigned to each company.<sup>4</sup> Each of the four platoons was instructed in one primary specialty, the special fields being those of tank commanders, driver-mechanics, gunners, and ammunition men (loaders). In addition to the specialty, each platoon was given training and a general familiarization with the specialties being taught to the other platoons.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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3. [ ] the students came to the NCO school in groups ranging from 100 to 120. They were from various unknown Polish armored regiments; and upon completion of the courses, they returned to their respective units. [ ] about 60 [ ] students were sent to the NCO school as one group, there were approximately 120 students in all groups from the 39th Mecz Inf Regt. During the course, approximately five students [ ] were dropped for unknown reasons and transferred to an unidentified infantry unit.
- [ ] The oath of service was taken by the entire NCO school battalion during a battalion formation in December 1950.
4. Training schedules varied each week and source therefore was unable to estimate the number of hours that were spent on each subject of instruction. However, he gave the following schedule of their daily routine:

0700	Reveille
0800	Breakfast
0900-1300	Classroom instruction and/or practical training
1300	Dinner
1400-1800	Classroom instruction and/or practical training
1800-2000	Care and cleaning of equipment; political lectures, and/or self study period.
2100	Supper
2300	Retreat

On Saturdays, either daily training or practical instruction such as operation and/or maintenance was given on the T-34/85 medium tank. On Sundays, the routine was to prepare for training periods scheduled for the following week, to march in parades, and/or to take part in organized athletics plus calisthenics.

#### Subjects Taught

- i. [ ] theoretical and practical training on the following subjects:

##### a. Political Indoctrination.

Political lectures amounted to classroom discussions on the activation of the Polish Army after WW II, the progress of the Six-Year Plan, post war construction of Polish factories, and current production of various types of commodities. Lecturers frequently spoke of the assistance being received by Poland in the post war reconstruction period through the use of Soviet engineers and technicians. Students were also told that various types of food products such as grain were also being sent to Poland from the USSR. The Vatican was pointed out as an enemy of Poland in that it supported the German regime during WW II and that it was still opposed to the governments of Poland and USSR.

##### b. Infantry Tactics, Drill, and Camouflage.

Practical training was given on drill commands, close order and extended order drill from individual to platoon level. Various types of trenches were dug, such as individual fox holes, connecting trenches, emplacements for light and heavy machine guns. The use of natural camouflage and garnished nets for individual and machine

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gun concealment was taught.

c. Duty on Tanks and SP Guns.

Classroom instruction was based primarily on the T-34/85 medium tank. The lectures, however, included a general familiarization with the T-34/76, and JS-2 tanks and with the 76-mm, 85-mm, 122-mm, and 152-mm SP guns.

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d. Tank and Weapons Training.

Instruction included practice firing and actual firing of about four rounds with the tank's 85-mm gun, performance and ballistics of the tank's LMG's, storage of ammunition and use of the various types of equipment which was installed in the tank. Firing was conducted from short halts at stationary wooden targets. Each member of the tank crew practiced throwing anti-personnel hand grenades (F-1) from the tank turret at metallic silhouette targets which were placed about 25 m from the tank.

e. Terrain Analysis and Map Reading.

Practical and theoretical instruction was given on map reading, familiarization with grid coordinates, intersection and resection problems, use of contour lines and explanations on map legends.

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maps of Poland having a scale of 1:25,000 were primarily used. However, a general familiarization training with maps having scales of 1:20,000, 1:50,000, 1:100,000, 1:500,000 and 1:1,000,000. Map legends indicated that all the maps were produced during 1949, 1950, and 1951 in the USSR.

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use the Adriandv compass, the sun, a watch, and terrain features in locating positions and objectives on the map and/or on the ground.

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f. Interior Service Regulations.

Lectures were based on the responsibilities and duties of NCO's and privates in the Polish Army. This included the rendition of salutes, methods of reporting to senior officers and/or administrative offices, and performance of duties and behavior of EM while serving in the army.

g. Marksmanship

Theoretical and practical instruction was given on the 7.62-mm Tokarev pistol, the 7.62-mm LMG, the PPS 1943 7.62-mm SMG, the M1944 7.62-mm carbine, and the F-1 defensive hand grenade. Lectures included the nomenclature, characteristics, capabilities, methods of firing, and care and cleaning of these weapons.

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h. Garrison Service Regulations.

Lectures were given on the various types of duties and responsibilities of EM when stationed at garrisons for duty.

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[ ] these lectures included conduct of sentry duty, rendition of salutes, and a familiarization with regulations pertaining to garrison duty.

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# 1. Disciplinary Regulations

Lectures on disciplinary regulations covered the types and limitations of punishments that could be given to EM who had committed various types of infractions of regulations, disobedience of orders, and unauthorized absence. [ ] squad leaders were authorized to give menial forms of punishment to privates who had committed infractions of regulations. Such a punishment, however, did not exceed several days of extra duty and possibly two days of confinement. Company and/or higher ranking officers could sentence privates to extra duty and/or confinement not exceeding 20 days with bread and water rations every other day. Court martial boards were convened by divisions and/or military districts. [ ] for an unauthorized absence of at least several days, EM could be sentenced to a minimum of three years imprisonment.

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## j. Use of Signal Equipment

[ ] theoretical and practical instruction was limited to the familiarization and operation of the radio set type 9-RS with telephone used in medium tanks and the RBM-1 radio set.<sup>5</sup>

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## k. Engineer (Sapper) Training

- (1) Lectures and practical training included the digging of individual fox holes and tank pits with one and/or two exits; camouflage and concealment; selection and digging of defensive positions for tank crews; construction of bunkers for tank ammunition; and construction of tank traps such as road barricades, tank pits, side hill cuts, spiders and knife rests. [ ] also [ ] instruction on the use of anti-tank mines, types TM-41 and TMD-B, and on the toxic smoke pot YAD-11; the latter was used to screen tanks in the field.<sup>6</sup>
- (2) Attaching antitank mines to a tree trunk about 80 cm above the ground level was one antitank trap taught in training. Detonation of the mine by a tank crossing the trip wires would cause the tree to fall on the tank.
- (3) [ ] occasionally one stout tree trunk was used as a road barricade. The tree trunk was placed across a narrow road or path at a height of about two meters, and firmly attached to two trees. It was believed that if one trunk were used, it would escape observation by the tank crew and that on impact it would damage the tank turret and/or gun mechanism.
- (4) [ ] not to cross any bridges or streams until they had been carefully examined by the tank crew and/or engineers. The engineers, however, selected the sites for crossing bridges and streams in advance. Bridges were posted with signs [ ]
- (5) [ ] mine fields [ ] were laid by engineers and usually contained a marked path for use by friendly troops and tanks.

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## 1. Chemical Warfare Training

- (1) Theoretical and practical instruction was given in the nomenclature and use of the Shlem-1 gas mask. [redacted] there were several lectures on gases: types identified by the instructor were mustard, phosgene, diphosgene, adamsite, lewisite, ~~yparite~~, and chloropicrin. The effects and capabilities of these gases were discussed [redacted] The Shlem-1 gas mask [redacted] was effective against these gases. [redacted] one training-aid chart which showed the colors of various gases, [redacted]
- (2) Gas chamber exercises were conducted on two occasions, during which tear gas was used. [redacted] while in the gas chamber [redacted] remove [redacted] mask and disconnect the hose from the canister in order to test its effectiveness. However, [redacted] many [redacted] EM became quite ill and vomited, which was caused by their inhalation of the gas during their attempt to test the mask. [redacted]
- (3) [redacted] several types of rubberized and/or impregnated protective overalls, capes, gloves (two and five fingered types), and boots on display in the lecture rooms. [redacted]
- (4) The course did not include any information on sniff sets or special detection equipment, smoke pots, chemical warfare ammunition, decontamination agents, and/or special kits. During one lecture, however, one instructor stated that gasoline, naptha and Gazol, the latter being a tank engine fuel (possibly diesel oil), were to be used in decontaminating tanks and weapons.

## m. First Aid and Hygiene

- (1) Classroom lectures were based on the use of the individual first aid kit, application of tourniquets, and the employment of sticks, boards, and/or weapons as field expedients for fractures. Litters were to be utilized in transporting seriously injured personnel.
- (2) The individual first aid kit was described [redacted] as a small packet that had a waterproof outer covering. It contained bandages and a medically-treated pad. Each tank also carried a medical kit containing bandages, medically treated pads, peroxide, iodine, and headache pills.
- (3) [redacted] lectures were given on the care of feet, use of footwraps, and use of drinking water. It was emphasized that all water found in enemy occupied areas was to be somehow tested by appropriate agencies prior to its use. While in the field, troops were to dig slit trenches and urinals for their own use. [redacted]

## n. Tank and Vehicle Driving

Practical training was given on the operation of the GAZ-51 vehicle and the T-34/85 medium tank. All NCO school students were

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given driver's training. [redacted]

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6. The NCO school battalion was quartered in several four-story brick buildings which had been used by the German forces during WW II. Two companies were assigned to each building, and one or two squads were billeted in each room. Washrooms and latrines were located on every floor of the building. The first floor contained several large rooms, which were used as classrooms. A central heating system was used to heat the buildings.
7. Theoretical and practical instruction was given by selected company-grade officers from the 9th Independent Med Tk Bn and by the platoon leaders of the NCO school battalion. [redacted] any one subject could be taught by any officer. [redacted] these officer instructors [redacted] were experienced and presented their subjects quite well.
8. [redacted] they were not issued any type of texts or manuals during the length of the course. The instructors, however, used texts and/or notes during their lectures. [redacted]

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#### Training Aids

9. Training aids were extensively used during the course. Training charts were used in teaching nomenclature and characteristics of small arms, machine guns, tanks, tank engines, colors of gases, and the Shlem-1 gas mask. Small arms were actually disassembled and assembled in the classrooms. One diesel engine was used to illustrate operation and maintenance. Several tank radios identified as types 9-RS, 9-RM, and RBM-1 were operated by the students in the classrooms and at a nearby training field. One classroom contained displays of several types of rubberized and/or impregnated coveralls, capes, gloves, and boots. Sand tables were used in teaching map reading, camouflage, and employment of tanks.

#### Morale, Alerts, and Medical Care

10. The morale of students in the NCO school battalion appeared to be good. [redacted] this was a result of both training and the treatment and consideration shown to them by their superior officers. Leaves were not authorized nor issued to any of the students. Approximately 15 percent of the NCO school battalion student body was authorized a Sunday pass, from 1400 to 2100 hours, but [redacted] only three or four students received such passes on Sundays. Approximately 25 percent were authorized to attend church services on Sundays. However, these passes were rarely taken or issued since the church was too distant and practically impossible to attend without being absent without proper authorization. In addition, anyone attending church services was usually considered politically unreliable and frequently assigned additional duties on Sundays in order to preclude his attending church services in the future.

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11. [redacted] rations served at the NCO school [redacted] were very good and [redacted] students frequently received extra portions of food if they so desired. Students received ten cigarettes (Moone brand) every day and occasionally alternated with packages of smoking tobacco. Laundry service was free.

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Their underclothing, sheets, and towels were sent to a nearby military laundry (location unknown). Laundry changes occurred once a week.

[redacted] a private [redacted] received six zlotys per month while at the NCO school.

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2. Approximately 20 practice alerts were held during the eight month course. They were called during either the day or the night. During so-called training alerts, which normally lasted from one to three hours, students carried their full equipment and individual weapons and assembled in battalion formation on the nearby parade fields, where a full field inspection was conducted. Occasionally, they marched about four kilometers from the caserne and then returned. During the march, several infantry-type tactical formations were practiced.

13. [redacted] one practice alert lasting at least four hours. The entire battalion marched a distance of about ten kilometers and then returned to their caserne. During the march, various infantry-type tactical formations were practiced.

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14. The NCO school had a dispensary which was staffed by one medical corps lieutenant, one warrant officer (feldsher), one civilian female nurse, and about four medical aid men.

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[redacted] Sick calls were held during the morning and afternoon. Emergencies were treated at any time.

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15. [redacted] prior to their attending the courses, all the students had been given a quick physical examination, by platoons, at the dispensary. [redacted] teeth, hearing, vision, (including the Ishihara color blindness test), reflexes, and feet were examined; [redacted] tests for varicose veins and skin diseases. His chest was examined with the use of a stethoscope. Blood tests were also taken. [redacted] three inoculations (type unknown), two of which were given in the upper part of the arm and the third injected near the left shoulderblade.

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16. [redacted] in Drawsko (Dramburg - N 53-32, E 15-48) [redacted] a mobile dental laboratory [redacted] the mobile dental laboratory [redacted] a vehicle (type unknown) in which one dental chair and cabinets containing various dental instruments were located.

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#### Reassignment after School Course

17. Upon completion of the NCO school during September 1951, [redacted] approximately 120 students returned to the 39th Meaz. Inf Regt. which was located at Drawsko, for summer training.

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18. [redacted] in addition to the formal classroom training, the NCO School Bn went to the Drawsko training area from May to September 1951 where they conducted summer training based on the program previously outlined. The rest of the 9th Ind Med Tk Regt was at Drawsko as well.

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[redacted] While there, the regiment (including the school battalion) participated in a tactical exercise.

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